

## In the Claims

Please replace original claims with like numbered amended claims set forth below. A marked up copy of the amended claims is submitted herewith as Attachment A.

508  
4, 13. (Once amended) A process for fabricating a magnetic media hard disk comprising:  
2 fabricating a magnetic media layer upon a surface material of a substrate;  
3 fabricating a diamond-like carbon (DLC) layer upon said magnetic layer by:  
4 fabricating an initial thickness DLC layer portion upon said magnetic layer  
5 utilizing a relatively low ion carbon beam energy;  
6 fabricating a subsequent thickness DLC layer portion upon said initial thickness  
7 DLC layer portion utilizing a relatively high carbon ion beam energy.

1 16. (Once amended) A process for fabricating a magnetic media hard disk as described in  
2 claim 13, including fabricating an intermediate thickness DLC layer portion between said initial  
3 DLC layer portion and said subsequent DLC layer portion, wherein said intermediate thickness  
4 DLC layer portion is fabricated utilizing a relatively mid-range carbon ion beam energy between  
5 said relatively low carbon ion beam energy and said relatively high carbon ion beam energy.

C 4 22. (Once amended) A method for fabricating a magnetic media hard disk comprising:  
2 fabricating a magnetic material layer upon a material surface of a substrate;  
3 fabricating a diamond-like carbon (DLC) layer upon said magnetic layer, wherein said  
4 DLC layer is fabricated by:  
5 depositing carbon ion species upon said magnetic layer utilizing a relatively low  
6 carbon ion beam energy of from approximately 10 eV to approximately 20 eV, to deposit an  
7 initial DLC layer thickness;  
8 subsequently increasing the carbon ion beam energy level as the thickness of said  
9 DLC layer increases due to deposition of carbon ion species within said DLC layer, such that  
10 higher energy carbon ion beam species become implanted within said DLC layer thickness.